

Request for Special Temporary Authority

Iridium Satellite LLC (“Iridium”) requests special temporary authority (“STA”) for a period of one-hundred eighty days, between April 1, 2023 and September 30, 2023, to transmit in the 1618.725–1626.5 MHz band from its space stations to the Winnebago-1 satellite and return capsule operated by Varda Space Industries, Inc. (“Varda”).¹ Iridium requests that the STA be issued by March 15, 2023, to satisfy the requirements of the launch integrators.

The Winnebago-1 is a satellite mission to be conducted by Varda to gain flight heritage for on-orbit and re-entry systems. It culminates with the separation of a return capsule from the bus that will return to Earth under parachute at the Utah Test and Training Range (“UTTR”). After the return capsule separates from the bus, it will initiate communications of GPS location data to Varda mission operations via an Iridium 9602 modem. Although the modem will provide real time information about the return capsule’s location as it deorbits and lands, primary vehicle tracking and vehicle recovery will be conducted by UTTR.

Varda has requested an experimental STA for its transmissions.² A NOAA License Waiver and API data is included in Varda’s experimental STA request and is hereby incorporated by reference.

There will be no change during the experiment in the operating parameters of Iridium’s space stations, which are licensed as Part 25 space stations under Call Sign S2110. For this reason, no operating parameters, other than effective radiated power and emission designator, are identified in the form this exhibit accompanies. The only change for which Iridium seeks experimental authority is adding Winnebago-1 as a point of communication. Iridium’s Part 25 space station license does not cover space-to-space communications.

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¹ Iridium’s constellation is comprised of 66 satellites, any one of which may be used as part of the experiment at any point in time.

² Varda Space Industries, Inc., Application for Experimental Special Temporary Authority (“STA”), OET File No. 1751-EX-ST-2022, filed Oct 17, 2022.